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THE SECRETARY OF STATE WASHINGTON

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May 27, 1986

Dear Bob:

I was pleased that you are able to participate in our seminar on the Soviet leadership situation on Saturday, May 31st.

The seminar is designed to be a small, off-the-record forum for candid exchanges of view on Soviet internal and external policies, focussing on the new Soviet leadership and developments during and subsequent to the 27th Party Congress.

The session will take place on the Eighth Floor of the Department of State. Please arrive at the Diplomatic (C Street) Entrance at 8:25 a.m. and you will be escorted to breakfast. Discussions will conclude shortly after 1:00 pm, following lunch.

Enclosed is the agenda for the seminar.

I look forward to seeing you, and appreciate your taking the time to join us.

Sincerely yours,

George P. Shultz

The Honorable
Robert M. Gates,
Deputy Director
of Central Intelligence.



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AGENDA: US-SOVIET SEMINAR

Introductory Remarks - The Secretary (5 minutes)

Gorbachev's Internal Agenda

Discussion:

- -- Gorbachev's approach over the past year
- -- Domestic constraints on Gorbachev's foreign policy
- -- Role of domestic institutions; the Central Committee, Foreign Ministry, KGB, Military

The Economic Link

Discussion:

- -- Relationship between the economy and foreign policy
- -- Importance of agricultural policy; consequences of Chernobyl
- -- The Soviet-East European relationship
- -- Potential for economic reform? for growth?
- -- Impact of technology

Gorbachev's Foreign Policy Agenda

Discussion:

- -- Gorbachev's assessment of the international situation (rhetoric vs. reality, likely achievements, likely failures)
- -- Gorbachev's world view; where does he place China, Europe, and the US;

US-Soviet Relations

Discussion:

- -- Does the USSR want/need arms control? What kind?
- -- Any possibility for concrete progress on regional issues?
- -- Any new thoughts on human rights?
- -- Relative priority of US-USSR relations for the USSR; are they ready for a Summit?

Summing Up - Dick Solomon (Moderator - 5 minutes)